

Climate Change Non-Departmental Account
Monthly Reporting

In May 2020, County Council approved reporting language in its Operating Budget miscellaneous provisions of Resolution 19-472 with regards to the Climate Change NDA:

This resolution appropriates \$400,000 to the Climate Change Planning Non-Departmental Account (NDA). Funds in this NDA must be used for the prioritization of greenhouse gas reduction strategies, developing an implementation plan to meet the County’s goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and a 100 percent reduction by 2035, and to develop climate change adaptation strategies. Only after the previously described work is completed may funds be used for other climate change-related initiatives. The Executive must transmit within 15 days after the end of a month a report on the previous month’s expenditures from this account.

In accordance with the resolution, the Executive hereby transmits the monthly report for February 2021.

FY21 Climate Change NDA expenditures reporting:

(includes expenditures incurred or committed through 2/28/21):

Expenditure Description	Amount Expended or Committed
Resilience Ambassador pilot and listening sessions (resilience surveys to inform the climate plan and operating expenses)	\$5,588.26
Climate planning outreach and communications	\$49,491.60
Building Energy Performance Standard planning	\$84,664.00
Building codes planning	\$1,000.00
Fleet transition planning	\$127,302.00
Sustainable economic development report	\$10,760.00
Total:	\$278,805.86

February 2021 highlights:

- Climate Planning update: During the month of February, the County’s climate team continued to host and participate in numerous virtual community sessions about the Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP), including the Climate Youth Town Hall, sessions with County advisory groups, representatives from the business community, and several municipalities. The public comment period for the Draft CAP closed on February 28, 2021. The County’s climate team is reviewing the public comments received on the Draft CAP and anticipates releasing the final Plan in the Spring. (Note that the CAP is funded with FY20 Climate Change NDA funds).

- Planning effort for Montgomery County vehicle fleet transition to zero emissions gets underway: The Department of General Services has launched a project to right-size the County fleet and develop a targeted approach to transition the County's fleet to zero emissions based on the vehicle technologies currently or soon to-be in the marketplace. The planned approach will be broken down by sub-fleet (light-duty administrative fleet, light-duty public safety, heavy trucks and equipment, and transit buses) to help develop a schedule for potential vehicle replacements and serve as potential justifications for funding in future years.
- MCPS signs contract for more than 300 electric school buses: MCPS announced in February that it will replace 326 diesel school buses with electric school buses over the next four years. The vendor, a subsidiary created by Massachusetts-based Highland Electric Transportation, Inc., will invest in the upfront costs of purchasing the electric school buses with the plan to recoup that investment over time through decreasing vehicle prices, less expensive fuel and maintenance savings. The cost to MCPS includes use of the bus, all charging infrastructure, charge management, electricity and maintenance reimbursement. MCPS' current bus fleet is powered by diesel engines. On a typical school day, the buses use approximately 17,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Diesel buses emit greenhouse gases; electric school buses do not have any tailpipe emissions. Twenty-five electric buses will be maintained at the Bethesda depot starting in the 2021-2022 school year and one bus will operate in each school cluster. MCPS will acquire 61 additional electric buses in the fall of 2022, and 120 electric buses in each of the two years after.

For more information:

- The Draft CAP is available on the climate webpage: montgomerycountymd.gov/Climate
- A description of the FY21 Climate Change NDA budget allocation is available at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/fy21-climate-nda-budget.pdf>
- The complete list of the County's FY21 climate initiatives is available at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/fy21-montgomery-county-climate-work-plan.pdf>